

Office of the Secretary of the UNICEF Executive Board

Template for delegations commenting on the draft country programme documents

2022 annual session

Draft country programme document commenting period:

22 March to 11 April (Kenya, United Republic of Tanzania)

24 March to 13 April (Syrian Arab Republic)

Delegations are kindly invited to use this template to share their comments on the draft country programme document being presented to the Executive Board during the forthcoming session.

Delegation name: **TURKEY**

Draft country programme document: **SYRIA**

In accordance with Executive Board decision [2014/1](#), draft country programme documents are considered and approved in one session, on a no-objection basis. All comments received by the Office of the Secretary of the Executive Board before the deadline stated above will be posted on the Executive Board website, and considered by the requesting country, in close consultation with UNICEF.

	Delegation's comments	Response(s)
General comments	<p>Turkey, along with other member states, has expressed its strong concerns regarding the UN Strategic Framework 2022-2024 for Syria and objected to the narrative of this document, which does not correctly reflect the current situation in the country and the ongoing conflict, where the Syrian regime is responsible for the devastating socio-economic and humanitarian situation in the country.</p> <p>The Strategic Framework ignores the fact that the enormous social and economic problems as well as the destruction of critical civilian infrastructure in Syria are the direct result of the regime's ongoing war against its own people. The entire narrative is shaped around the idea that there is no culprit behind the situation. As such, the Framework reflects the views of the Syrian regime, rather than the needs of the Syrian people and reproduces and supports the discourse of the regime.</p>	

The UNICEF CPD draft has the same shortcoming in context analysis. This, in turn, could hinder proper risk management and undermine country level implementation, whose sole focus should be addressing the needs and alleviating the suffering of the Syrian people in the face of an ongoing conflict.

In order to do that, the UN must maintain the consistency and coherence of its overall engagement in Syria, in line with “One UN” approach. Different pillars of the system cannot employ contradicting policies. *How does UNICEF plan to ensure this?*

It is crucial that the UN, including its funds and programs, both at the planning and implementation phases, reflect the views, expectations and the needs of all Syrian people. This is also a requirement of the “Whole-of-Syria” approach, which was established by the Organization itself in response to the humanitarian situation.

UN programming cannot overlook the needs of millions of Syrians by treating the regime as the only counterpart or beneficiary of its assistance, in particular when it is unclear what the regime is expected to deliver in exchange for this assistance.

Given the serious problem of regime’s corruption and diversion of international aid for its own purposes, close monitoring and meticulous risk management, with full institutional transparency and all necessary safeguard measures are essential. *How does UNICEF plan to ensure this?*

It is also crucial that the issue of early recovery is implemented without discrimination for all Syrians in need throughout the country, the majority of whom live outside the control of the regime. *How does UNICEF plan to ensure this?*

Well-intentioned efforts of the UN or its frameworks and program documents cannot be allowed to become instruments in the attempts of the regime to create a false impression of normalcy or a post-conflict narrative for Syria.

The ultimate objective in Syria is a Syrian-led and Syrian-owned political transition in order to end the conflict, which is a UN facilitated process in line with Security Council resolution 2254.

Comments on specific aspects of the draft country programme document	<p><i>What are the concrete steps to be taken by UNICEF to implement the CPD in line with UN's Parameters and Principles for Assistance in Syria, when they are not accepted by the major recipient, namely the regime?</i></p> <p><i>The central, transformative promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs is to leave no one behind. How does UNICEF plans to implement the CPD without leaving any Syrian behind, in the context of an ongoing conflict where the main responsible of the aggravated problems that UN Agencies are trying to address is the regime itself?</i></p>	
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